

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-9 and 11-18 are presently pending in this application. Claims 1 and 10 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and Claims 2-5, 11-14 and 18 have been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 3-6, 10, 12-15 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Redgrave (U.S. Patent 5,287,301); Claims 3 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Redgrave in view of Applicants' Prior Art; and Claims 2, 7-9, 11, 16 and 17 were objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the early indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 2, 7-9, 11, 16 and 17. In light of that indication, Claims 2 and 11 have been rewritten in independent form, and Claims 3-5 and 12-14 have been amended to correct respective dependencies. Further, Claim 18 has been amended to include features substantially similar to the features of original Claim 2 indicated as allowable subject matter.¹

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the outstanding rejections summarized above are rendered moot, and that Claims 2-9 and 11-18 should be allowed.

¹ See also page 7, third paragraph, of the outstanding Action.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for formal allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

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